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Local Option and the Raines Law

The decision of the Republican leaders, to introduce into the Legislature a bill providing for local option in cities of the first and second class, is as strictly in line with Republican policy as it is contrary to Democratic policy. For many years the New York Democratic platforms insisted upon uniformity in liquor legislation for the whole State. The policy of local option is Republican policy distinctively.

The local option the Republicans propose concede to these cities relates only to the matter of liquor selling on Sunday, with the possibility, however, of its extenion to week days also. The cities of the first class, as defined by the State Constitu-Mon, are those having a population of 250,-000 or more, and of the second class, those th a population of 50,000 and less than 50,000. In the first rank are only New Fork and Buffalo; in the second are includ-Albany, Rochester, Syracuse, and Troy. The contemplated local option measure as diquor selling, whether on Sunday alone on week days also, would not offend minst the principle of the Raines law, but erely extend to the cities a privilege that law gives to towns. As we have said, It would be in harmony with Republican policy in liquor legislation in many States. It would also tend to disarm the only opposition to the Raines law which receives public attention. The great revenue raised by the tax reduces the burden of taxation or the people generally; and for the liquor dealers themselves the tax causes a reduction in the competition in the trade, which tends to the advantage of those who can

The proposed Republican bill will specify the hours during which liquor can be sold on Sunday, if the sale is permitted by the voters; but not even the liquor dealers themselves have asked for more, for they know that if they made an effort to get on Sunday the full privileges they enjoy on week days they would arouse an opposition to their traffic which might prove of serious injury to it. Even if the proposed law was passed it would be doubtful if the limited privilege of Sunday selling could receive the popular vote. The question has never ne up here, but it may be assumed that if it arose there would be powerful opposition to any Sunday opening from the religious public more especially, and from both Catholics and Protestants. Neither the Roman Catholic Church nor any Protestant denomination is favorable to the liquor business. They are against it as draining the pockets of the poor and tending to misery and immorality; and any legalizing of the traffic on Sunday might provoke and probably would provoke their

Since the granting of local option is in accordance with Republican precedent and policy here and in other States, and opposed to the established Democratic policy in New York, the treatment the proposed easure will receive from the Democrats of the Legislature will be awaited with considerable interest.

The Election of 1900.

Me HENRY WATTE "The Political Outlook" in the Forum magazine, suggests the possibility, even the probability, of "a quadrilateral contest for the Presidency, with candidates corresponding to Low and TRACY, GEORGE and

So far as the Democracy are concerned, the reasons leading him to such a forecast are, in brief, his assumption that the Bryanites will bolt if they are not able to control the National Democratic Convention, and that the "more conservative" ocrats, "led by Tammany," will bolt if they are outvoted by the Bryanites. Neither side, concludes Mr. WATTERSON, can afford to be beaten and submit to the mination of the other in the party organfration. "Can Tammany afford it?" he anks. "Can men like HILL and WHITNEY and GORMAN afford it ?" The triumph of Bryanism in the convention, he says, will involve the "shipwreck of their local or-ganization," and to "save themselves" they will have to bolt and go it alone.

The conflict between the two wings of the Democracy is the more inevitable, in the view of Mr. WATTERSON, because of the late success of the Democratic candidates in the election where the Chicago platform of 1896 was ignored. He foresees, as a natural consequence, that an attempt will be made by a "multitude of Democratic counsellors" to repeat the ignoring in the new platform of 1900. The "trademark" of Bryanism being free silver, that "faction is committed to the repetition in 1900 of the campaign of 1896," and, accordingly, is " sure to bolt the convention" if it cannot have its way. Thus he brings two opposing Democratic candidates into the field, Bryanism supporting the one and Tammany marshalling the followers of the ther. Nor does he see a much better chance for Republican unity, "though not threatned by such imminent and obvious perils."

It is not improbable that the apparent benefits reaped by the "policy of evasion" at the late election in States which in 1896 arned from the Democratic party to Mc-EINLEY will induce powerful efforts for its imitation by the national convention of indication of any such irreconcilable discord as Mr. WATTERSON predicts, however, can now be discerned in the Democratic situation. The signs at present point rather toward harmony. The delegates from New York to the national convention of 1900 are not likely to repeat the unavailing protest against the great majority made in 1896, but will rather demonstrate their regularity by assenting to its will with all cordiality. To bolt in case of the triumph of either Bryanism or its opponents need be expected from Tammany. The New York organization may be relied upon to remain scrupuously regular whichever side obtains the mastery in the convention. Nor does there pear at present any indication in any ste of the possibility of the election of a

form. The indications throughout the Union are that the next National Democratic Convention will be harmonious, if not absolutely unanimous, in its declara-

tions of policy and principle. Very likely, influences like those of Tammany may be used to bring about some modification in the currency propositions of the Chicago platform, but they will not be put forward in the threatening way Mr. WATTERSON suggests, and may be all the more potent for that reason. However they are received, it may be assumed that the platform and ticket of the convention will have the unanimous approval and support of the Tammany delegation and of the delegations generally.

In the Republican party we are unable to discover the indications of rupture foreseen by Mr. WATTERSON. It is true that in this State there is now a malicious and vindictive faction which is seeking to produce such disruption locally, but as that revolt touches no question of party principle and is purely personal, it cannot make itself felt in a national convention. A few malcontents are seeking to defeat the Republican party in this State at the election of next year, but their motive is so manifestly revenge merely because they cannot boss its organization, that it can have no potency in the broad field of national politics. It is too petty, too personal, too parochial.

So far, therefore, as we can discern the indications of the political situation as it is now, they point to an even squarer fight between Bryanism and the Republican party in 1900 than we had in 1896. The "National Democrats" have already disappeared. They have no existence even as a faction, and the bottom has dropped out of their platform. Bryanism may undergo some slight changes in its guise, but that there will be any essential transformation in it is suggested by nothing which has yet appeared in the political situation since the election of 1896.

A Rich Pensioner States a Question of Honor.

There is no doubt that the pension list contains the names of scores of thousands of veterans who are entitled legally to the pensions which they draw, but do not need any help from the Government. There is no fraud whatever in their cases. Equitably not less than technically they were entitled to their pensions at the time when they applied for them, and probably at that time they needed the money. Since then they have prospered in the world, either because their native energy and ability were superior to any physical disabilities incurred in military service, or because the business in which they have engaged is such that the particular form of disability on which the pensions were granted does not disqualify them for activity and success.

A great many distinguished and patriotic Americans have belonged to this class of pensioners. Some of them have surrendered voluntarily the monthly allowance from the Government. Others have relinquished their pensions as soon as public attention was directed to their cases. Others have kept on drawing the \$12, the \$16, or the \$20 monthly, feeling that they had an unquestionable right to the money, and that it was nobody's business if the Government's check went to swell almost imperceptibly a private income ample, perhaps, beyond the dreams of avarice.

There is no question of legal right; hardly any question of moral right, in one sense of the word morality. It is a delicate question of personal honor, of personal perception of the proprieties, of personal willingness to accept money which is not needed by the recipient and which is raised by taxes on his fellow citizens. In the discussion of this question there is room for much casulstry. The real answer depends on a clear understanding of the principles upon which pensions were granted primarily; principles which in this country's experience have become greatly obscured during the long process of lavish and indiscrimi-

A day or two ago we received from a wellknown gentleman in the West a letter intended for publication, stating fully and manfully the facts about his own pension. asking us to decide for him whether he ought to retain it or relinquish it, and offering to abide by our decision. Since then he has written to request us not to publish his letter, but he still desires us to pass, in a general way, upon the question of honor which he originally submitted with full details over his own name.

Omitting everything that might disclose our friend's identity, we present so much of his first communication as is necessary to an understanding of the case :

"When I enlisted in August, 1861, the Governme promised recruits \$13 a month for services, and an additional pay in the way of pensions in case the said recruits were in any way permanently disabled when in active service. "At the end of three years we reënlisted and got each \$100 for reënlistment and one month's furlough

to go home and see our girls before active service was required of us again. We reënlisted on account of our girls and for such patriotism as the present generation may see fit to accredit to us. "The succeeding generations, who are in distress for fear that the owners of the Government bonds of

interest, have nothing to say about the private soldier who enlisted for \$18 a month and took his pay in de preclated greenbacks, worth all the way from 25 cents to 50 cents on the dollar. "When I went out of the war in 1864 I was permanently disabled with a gunshot wound which deprived me of the use of my right arm. When I finally

got my discharge I was deplorably poor, with no prospect of future prosperity; but I married my girl just the same.
"We 'chanced' it through, and, as it turned out years ago, I stood in no special need of the pension that was awarded to me to square off my a counts at the end of each month. Yet I have drawn my pension nth) regularly ever since. I have interests that give me an income which far more

my pension of \$16 a month. "Am I acting in an honorable or a dishonorable manner in accepting said pension? I will leave it to you to decide the matter. If you say I ought not to take the pension, off she goes. If you say I have just as much right to accept the pension as the bondholder has to demand gold for his bond, she stays on."

than supplies my needs, yet I still continue to draw

We are quite sure that our correspondent, who is as manly an American in 1898 as he was in 1861, does not go on drawing 1900. Nor is it unlikely that Tammany's his pension because he regards it as a influence will be exerted to that end. No money equivalent for his honorable wounds and sufferings in behalf of his country. Money could not pay him for that wound, and he is not the man to take \$16 a month in installment payments of an inestimable debt of gratitude.

He does not draw the pension because he needs the money for the support of himself and his family. That he declares very frankly. Yet the entire pension system rests primarily upon the idea that the Government's duty is to supply the support which the pensioner, on account of physically disabling wounds or injuries, cannot win for himself. It is for that purpose that the pensioner's fellow citizens are taxed. As it turned out, this pensioner was not

disabled from earning a fortune. We now come to the consideration which

rich pensioner's mind for continuing to accept the \$16 a month. We are glad he puts stress upon it, for it is frequently urged in other cases. During the war he was paid by the Government in depreciated currency. The men who lent money, instead of lending tnemselves, to the Government in the national crisis have been paid in gold. He regards his pension money, therefore, as the balance due him in order to put upon the gold basis his pay as a soldier. He holds that he had the same right as the bondholder to the difference between depreciated greenbacks and gold. He thinks he is getting the difference now in the form of a pension.

Let us see how that theory works, In the first place, whatever may be the equity of this veteran's claim to the difference between the greenback value of his pay during the war and the gold value, the matter has nothing to do with his pension. The readjustment of pay to the gold standard, if such be his right, is equally the right of every soldier who received his monthly pay in greenbacks worth less than gold. That is a question for determination on its own merits, not for settlement by means of the pension list. For if the bondholders really had an unfair advantage over our correspondent in being paid in gold, and our correspondent is merely evening up with them by drawing his pension, our correspondent is gaining the same unjust advantage over his unpensioned comrade in arms that he maintains

bondholder and himself. Secondly, if the pension money coming in to him now may be regarded rightly as arrears of monthly pay, adjusted to the gold value of the dollar, is our rich pensioner getting his just due, or is he getting more than his just due?

has previously existed as between the

A brief computation may inspire thoughts in his mind. He served, let us say, for forty months at \$13 a month. His pay, therefore, amounted to \$520. Adding his bounty for reënlistment, also paid in depreciated currency, the total is \$620, in greenbacks. The average value in gold of the greenback dollar during the period of his service was considerably over fifty cents. Let us call it fifty cents. According to his present theory, then, the Government owed him at the time of his discharge \$620 more, in greenbacks, for arrears of pay. Now, since 1865 he has received in pension money, credited by him to account of arrears of pay, the sum of \$6,144; and this not in fifty-cent dollars, but for the greater part of the time in dollars as good as gold.

Thus it appears that according to our rich pensioner's own understanding of his account with the Government, he has been overpaid already nearly tenfold for the difference between greenbacks and gold. He owes money to the Government, not the Government to him.

We shall not undertake to decide for our esteemed correspondent the question of personal honor which he presents. Every rich pensioner, every prosperous pensioner, every pensioner who does not need the pension he draws, must decide that personal question for himself. But we wish our candid friend, the rich pensioner, long life and continued prosperity under the flag for which he fought.

The Navy Personnel Plan.

The report of Assistant Secretary Roose-VELT sets forth very clearly what has been accomplished by the board which has been considering the personnel of the navy. The bill embodying the board's conclusion is a long one, and Mr. Roosevelt's explanation of it still longer; yet it is possible to present briefly the general results reached.

These results are chiefly concerned with three subjects, namely: the removal of the chronic conflict between staff and line, the increase of promotion, and the condition of the enlisted men. The first purpose, so far as the engineers and the line are concerned, is accomplished by the novel and radical stroke of amalgamating the former with the latter. The cadets at the Naval Academy, hereafter to be called midshipmen, are to be commissioned at once on completing the four years of study there, the present two years' course at sea being abolished. They will all belong to the line, vet all will have been instructed in engineering. Meanwhile there is a carefully arranged system for transferring the existing engineers to the line, although it may be specified that they are to perform engineer duty only, since otherwise they will take up line duties. This part of the plan is supplemented by the creation of a body of 100 warrant machinists, having good pay, reinforcing the engine-room strength.

This ingenious and radical method of doing away with the controversy in regard to the titles and the positive rank of staff officers is supported by the entire board, with the exception of one member, and, since both line and engineers are repre sented on the board, the solution should appeal strongly to Congress. There are other staff officers, such, for example, as the medical and the pay officers, to whom the plan does not apply; but the purpose has been to simplify the change as much as possible.

Next comes the question of increased pro motions. This is solved by a method which, in some form, has been proposed repeatedly, namely, that of selecting, each year, in certain grades, enough officers for retirement, in order to cause, in lack of casualties from other sources, a specified number of vacancies, and hence of promotions thereto. The number of promotions contemplated is thirteen annually among the Commanders, twenty among the Lieutenant-Commanders, twenty-nine among Lieutenants, and forty among the Junior Lieutenants. The selections are to be made by a board, but not more than five Captains, four Commanders, four Lieutenant-Commanders, and two Lieutenants are to be retired in any one year. To mitigate individual hardships of the plan, the retired officer will have the rank and three-fourths of the sea pay of the next higher grade. Three of the board dissent as to the method of making the vacancies, although all are anxious to have more promotions, even by artificially creating vacancies in

some way. The third leading measure relates to the enlisted men; and, besides making their term of enlistment four years hereafter, it gives them retirement for service and other privileges now granted to soldiers, while there is a new provision regarding increase of pay on reenlistment. The creation of the grade of warrant machinists, already spoken of, also comes under this head of bettering the condition of the enlisted men.

To these principal changes are added sundry others sufficiently important to be mentioned. First is an increase in the total number of officers. Then comes an increase of pay, founded on the fact that the engineer officers now receive more pay delegation which will bolt a Bryanite plat- constitutes the main justification in the than the line, so that in amalgamating the

two it is proposed to raise the pay of the latter rather than to cut down the pay of the former. The grade of Commodore is abolished, except for the command of a small squadron or for the office of Chief of

Will this measure commend itself to Congress? So many have been the attempts to solve the problem in the last five or ten years, and so many the failures, that there is a natural hesitation to predict success for the present plan. Undoubtedly it will have some opponents in the service itself, yet the degree of unanimity in re-porting it is striking. One objection, in the eyes of Congress, is that it will add at least \$600,000 a year to the cost of the navy personnel. Possibly a part of this estimate can be reduced. It may be practicable to get along with fewer additional officers, or to make different provision regarding the increase of pay. One suggestion, for example, is that while existing engineers transferred to the line ought not to have their pay reduced, yet the present line officers might remain on their existing pay, which could also be the standard for all hereafter commissioned in the line from the Naval Academy. But Mr. Roosevelt makes an earnest argument in favor of carrying out the project as proposed, even if it does involve \$600,000 year more.

The discussion of the bill will probably not come up in Congress for a considerable time yet, but the skill with which the board has performed its task is clear.

Two More Universities.

One has been founded in Kansas, one in Columbia College, which is not far from Kansas, whatever geographers may say. Dr. F. B. LAWRENCE of El Dorado, which is not a good place for an argyromaniac and National Free Silver committeeman to hail from, has established the Co-operative Political Library Circle, "through which it is proposed to organize silver and reform forces and supply the local organizations with political literature. The principal objects to be attained are to get books and literature at wholesale prices and through the library to put them within the reach of all: and second, to faithfully study the great political problems now pressing for solution." Among the eminent thinkers who think well of the Co-operative Library Circle are the Hon. JOHN W. LEEDY, GOVernor of Kansas, and the Hon, SILAS Hot-COMB. Governor of Nebraska. It is understood that the new institution, which means to have branches in every town, will admit graduates of the Hon. JOHN BRIS-BEN WALKER'S Type-Written University to degrees ad eundem.

The new Columbia University has Prof. CHARLES SPRAGUE SMITH of the old Columbia to manage and direct it, and among the gentlemen who have consented to advise and direct it are the Hon. JOHN BROOKS LEAVITT, the Hon. ALBERT SHAW, the Hon. SAMUEL GOMPERS, and the Hon. St. CLAIR McKelway, formerly of Albany. It is to be called the People's Institute; its principal object is the teaching of "sociol-"general," "contemporary," and ogy." 'American;" and the teaching is to be inspired.

Of the seven departments into which the studies of the institute scholars are divided 'sociology" occupies two, while another is to deal with the discussion of questions of the day, i. e., "sociology" again. Art, ethics, language and literature, mathematics, music, natural science, philosophy, and religion are all present or accounted for in the plan of the institute, but "sociology" is to be the main thing in it. Here is a section of the plan:

"Emphasizes those departments of knowledge which contribute to the solution of the social prob-"The essential characteristics of the educational

system of the Institute are that chief importance will be attached to inspiration." In spite of the fact that the professors of Dorado. "We must draw the line somewhere," says Dr. LAWRENCE,

Variety Enough for All.

The year 1898 opened at the New York theatres on Monday with the doors of two playhouses only, the newest ones, closed to patrons. At two houses, an ususual thing even in the varied record of New York amusements, Shakespeare's "As You Like It" was presented. On the other hand, to the delight of many of the "old theatregoers" of whom one hears so much and sees so little, "Il Trovatore" was heard at one theatre for eight successive, # not continuous, performances, and "Humpty Dumpty" (in marionettes) was announced at another.

Managers nowadays often make the titles of their plays describe the chief character, and thus we have "The Ballet Girl," "The Circus Girl," "The Telephone Girl," "The French Maid," "The Hired Girl," and "The Model." There is "The Highwayman" and "The Little Minister," "The Dangers of a Great City" and "The Salt of the Earth," "The Governors" and "The Conquerors," "The Irish Gentleman" and "Secret Enemy," and "Gayest Manhattan." And the variety shows still bloom. Certainly no subdivision of public taste in New York is unprovided for during the first week of the enlarged metropolis and a theatregoer, whether a resident or a stranger in New York, must be hard to please if from among this assortment of old and new plays he cannot find at least one to conform with the requirements of his taste in such matters.

At no time before, perhaps, has the as sortment of plays offered to the theatregoing public of New York been more varied than it is at present.

Some of the ideas and methods of th

Don't Worry clubs are not exactly clear, but it seems to be true of them that they perceive the possibilities involved in the fact of the superiority of will, and that in case they find themselves worrying about any particular thing they correct themselves and eliminate the worry by thinking of something else. Perhaps this is always possible. It seems reasonable enough se that one worrying about the soup may find relief by diverting the attention and fixing it strenuously upon the cheese. It may be, indeed, that some are too weak-minded to be qualified to succeed in such an undertaking as this; but even to try to do it would be excellent exercise, quite regardless of the success or failure of the event. It is easily supposable that conditions might establish themselves in which it would require a past master in the science of not worrying to assure satisfactory results. Thus if one should be in a field, and should behold an angry bull rushing upon one, and there should be no chance to get away, it would require a very high order of don't-worry ability to think of something clae. Very likely if one were competent to think of something else it would be all that would be needed in order to divert the bull. Of course, it would be no sort of a situation for a novice. It is a fact, however, that GOETHE and other philo phere before him have declared that anybody

who wishes a thing sufficiently is bound to bring it to pass; and surely anybody about to receive the charge of an angry bull should be be able to wish sufficiently that it would cease from its immediate demonstrations and go about other business. Whatever the bull might do, there seems to be no question that it would contribute to the peace of mind of the ratiocinating biped in the case if he could think of something else. We do not care to obtrude suggestions, but it occurs to us that a don'tworry adept, finding himself in such a situation, might think of a rainbow or a water lily. To do that would be to afford a fine illustration thought.

The peculiarly feminine type of woman is dis-appearing.—Minneapolis Times.

Pity the sorrows of a poor young man. This is the voice that trembled yesterday as it asked: 'Is not beauty, after all, merely an illusion?" A heart-breaking history is thus revealed in two sentences. First the luckless youth shakes his fist at his reflection in the glass, pulls his cravat awry, rains wrath upon the preferred and handsome one, resolves to devote himself to celibacy and good works, begins to think that he abominates good looks in men and beauty in women, and swears to himself that only homely folks have good hearts. Now you see him building a wide philosophy out of a single case. A woman has had the impudence to send him about his business. Shall he expire, and unavenged? Not much. Women are not feminine any more, he sputters. They are losing the qualities which once endeared them most to men. To-morrow this young man, a really gifted person, whose name, Shenstone SNIPE, is a poem in itself, will try to demonstrate that marriage is a decadent institution. But if the weather continues cold and there is good skating, within ten days he will be sighing for a young woman, who, he will admit, belongs to the peculiarly feminine type, and possesses the Illusive but agreeable gift of beauty. SHEN-STONE SNIPE has the soul of a poet. He will re-

From out of Tammany Hall there should at once arise a notification to Mayor VAN Wyck that the last way in which he may be permitted by the organization to copy the late reform Mayor is in the exhibition of a peppery temper, such as the new Mayor was guilty of yesterday in the presence of some members of the School Board. Because the Mayor is free from the stain of tobacco does not give him the privilege of being cross and crotchety in the performance of his duties.

Full accounts of the Interstate Cake Walk which enlivened New Year's night at Wichita, that seat of all festivity in Kansas, have not reached the waiting East, but it must have been a glittering pageant. And it had a positive permanent value beyond its temporary frivolities. It revealed a new field for the genius of statesmen. Seats were reserved for Governor JOHN W. LEEDY, and some other Kansas officials, and for Governor BARNES of Oklahoma and his staff. It might be supposed that a Governor of Oklahoma could find fun enough at home, and probably BARNES came to see LEEDY, who is worth travelling a good many miles to see. LEEDY is perhaps the finest composite and all-around Populist statesman in Kansas. It seemed a few days ago as if there was nothing about which he had not expressed his views tumultuously; but now he has studied cake walks, and is going to introduce them among the Populist brethren.

Indignation at the conduct of the Bushnell-Kurtz bolters against the reelection of Senator HANNA is not confined to Ohio. That feeling in the Buckeye State ought to be strong enough to reclect him.

Some most regrettable observations about the decadence of oratory fall, and fall hard, from the lips of our learned contemporary, the Memphis Commercial Appeal. "No doubt," says this too quick despairer, "there were orators in China and Persia when the recorded centuries were much fewer in number, before DEUCALION took ship, and before Atlantis sunk, but nothing can be more ludithan the gibble-gabble of crous people at the present day. Civilization produces and perfects oratory, but, like CHRONOS, devours its own offspring." DEMOS-THENES and the Romans follow in the sad procession. Why is this woe in Memphis? In Nashville there is an orator the like of whom in general pyrotechnics and the discharge of flowery bombs was never seen in Persia, China, Greece, Rome, or anywhere else "sociology" in the institute are inspired, Atlantis would still show its nose above water, its graduates will not be admitted to de- if BoB TAYLOR could fire a speech ever it. grees ad eundem by the university at El Chronos would have changed his diet if he Dorado. "We must draw the line some-Yet it has occurred to some philologers that Bon would have been even more rolling and expressive in Chinese.

I found Mexico a land of sunshine and sur-passing verdure.—William Jessings Bryan.

THE NEW YORK CANALS.

Estimates for Their Improvement—State Engineer Adams and Superintendent Aldridge. From the Engineering Record.

For many years it has been evident that the State canals would need improvement, and the State Englneers have asked for appropriations to make surveys and examinations of these works. The records con cerning them are nearly worthless. The reason for this state of affairs is simply that the State Legislature has refused to appropriate enough money to onduct the work of the Engineer's office properly. the money that was granted being sufficient merely to pay the engineering expenses for such construc-tion and repairs as appeared manifestly needed.

It is evident that with such useless material as basis for estimates, and only twoive days in which to work, it would be impracticable to form a definite estimate of the cost of improving the State canals Yet that was the task the State Engineer was re quested to perform by the Constitutional Convention of 1894. The estimate under these conditions was \$11,573,000, and it was then assumed, as had been done previously, that the excavated material could be used in raising the banks, thereby naking a con-siderable saving in cost. It will be noticed that the Eugineer's rough figures were even then \$2,573,000 more than the \$9,000,000 which the Legislature—no the State Engineer or Superintendent of Public Works-subsequently fixed as the amount the people were to be asked to vote. This sum of \$9,000,000, only 78 per cent. of the

sum which the inadequate public records led the State Engineer to consider necessary, was duly voted by the people. As soon as the first bonds were sold and the money available, over two hundred engineers were put at work to determine the condition of the causis, and others were added as they could be obtained. It is because this engineering investigation was imperatively necessary that the engineering exdone. Examinations and reconstruction of structure seventy years old naturally call for comparatively large engineering expenses, and these occur early in the work, when they seem at first thought to unin formed people to be out of all proportion to the total expendit

Soon after the engineers' reports began to reach the State Engineer it was apparent that the work could not be done as it should be for anything like the ap-propriation. The total of these first estimates was omething over \$16,000,000. Every effort was then made to reduce the cost of the works by omitting everything not absolutely necessary, and work was pushed on the important sections so that contracts could be let as soon as possible. Recently plans fo the less pressing work have been completed, and in the joint report of the State Engineer and the buperintendent of Public Works, printed elsewher in this issue, is the first definite official state-ment based on reliable data which has been made by the State Engineer as to the proba-ble cost of the canal improvements. That estimate is \$16,000,000, and is based on much more exact information than was available during the preparation of the figures for the Constitutions Convention. The amounts earned on all contracts up to Oct. 1, the end of the fiscal year, were \$3,239,483, and the total amount of the contracts awarded up to the present time is \$7,745,920. We can see no reason whatever for accusing the State Engineer and the State Superintendent of Public Works of incompe tence and deceit. In short, a careful study of the matter convinces us that the present attack by a section of the press on the State Engineer and the Super intendent of Public Works is unjustifiable.

CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS. The Tenching of the Church as to Heretics Ex-

plained by a Pripet. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your orrespondent, R. N. T., complains of the incompleteness of my letter on the "Salvation of Heretics," and quotes certain passages from Father Müller's "Familiar Exposition of Catholic Doctrine" in refutation of some of the statements made by me. My ruply to R. N. T.'s difficulties comes, perhaps, a little late, but my reason for the delay is that I was unable for some days to lay hands on a copy of Father Muller's book, it being one of those volumes which is generally relegated to the top shelves of ecclesiastical libraries. The fact is that | Gazette show to be completed by the close Father Müller's catechism is unreliable, and is repudiated by all the best theologians of the day. For this reason, then, I refuse to regard Father Muller as an exponent of the mind of the Catholic Church, and your correspondent would do

well to follow my example. Ten years ago two learned and well-known members of the Paulist Fathers came into conflict with the same Father Müller on the selfsame point. The controversy went on for some weeks in the Freeman's Journal, and is to be found in extenso in that paper under the dates of Sept. 15 and 29 and Oct. 6, 13, and 27, 1888. There is no question as to who came off best in the contest. In the Catholic World for December, 1888, an article from the pen of Father Walter Elliot, C. S. P., on one of Father Müller's multifarious works, completely sets the subject at rest. Father Müller is known as a writer of great volume, but not as a careful and exact theologian.

How much better would it not be if inquirers would go to the fountain head of Catholic Baching, and consult standard theological works, than accept the loose statements contained in Father Müller's catechism. Let me quote a few passages from "A Full Catechism or the Cath-olic Religion," by a learned Jesuit, Father De-harbe, a work which is really reliable and which is one of the standard catechisms of America. On page 146 the following questions and answers will be found:

Q.—Who is a member of the Catholic Church? A.— Every one who is baptized, and has neither volun-tarily separated himself, nor has been excluded, from

Every one who is baptized, and has neither voluntarily separated thinself, nor has been excluded, from her.

Q.—Who have voluntarily separated themselves from the Church? A.—First, all those who by their own fault are heretics, i.e., who profess a doctrine that has been condemned by the Church, or who are infidels—that is, who no longer have nor profess any Christian faith at all; and, second, all those who by their own fault are sehtsmatics—that is, who have renounced, not the doctrine of the Church, but their obedience to her or to her supreme head; the Pope.

Q.—Who are excluded from the Catholic Church? A.—Excommunicated; that is, those who, as degenerate members, have been expelled from the communion of the Church.

Q.—Are not those also who are heretics without their own fault exparated from the bodic Church? A.—Such as are heretics without their own fault, but sincerely s-arch after the truth, and in the meantime do the will of God to the best of their knowledge, although they are separated from the body, remain, however, united to the soul of the Church and partake of her graces.

Q.—Who is a heretic by his own fault? A.—A heretic by his own fault is: First, he who knows the Catholic Church and is convinced of her truth, but does not join her; and, second, he who could know her if he would candidly search, but through indifference and other culpable motives neglects to do so.

Q.—Does it become us to judge whether this one or that one is a heretic by his own fault or not? A.—No, for such judgment belongs to food, who alone is the "searcher of hearts and rens" (Pe., vil., 10), and judges the secrets of men (hom., ii., 16).

Q.—Is it sufficient for obtaining salvation to be a member of the Catholic Church? A.—No, for there are also rotten and dead members who, by their sins, bring upon themselves eternal damnation.

These, sir, and not Father Müller's narrowminded dideas, are what the Church teaches her

These, sir, and not Father Müller's narrow-minded ideas, are what the Church teaches her children, and it will be apparent to any one who understands the true spirit of the Catholic Church that she does not exclude from her fold those who honestly act in accordance with the dictates of conscience and the light which God has given them. I am, sir, very faithfully yours. Rev. ALEX. HENDERSON, P. S. M. MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH, EAST 115TH STREET, Jan. 3.

The Boctrine of the Roman Catholic Church

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Referring to the letter of R. N. T. in THE SUN of 31st ult., permit a Roman Catholic to say that the facts that Father Müller published a book entitled "Familiar Exposition of Roman Catholic Doctrine," and that Cardinal Gibbons approved the same do not make the teachings of such a book Catholic doctrine; such doctrine must be gathered from the definitions of the Holy See and the consensus of opinion among theologians upon matters not defined. The statement from the sook in question that Protestants never had any faith in Christ is ridiculous when it is considered that one of the strong insistments of the Church of Rome is against the distinclively Protestant doctrine that faith alone in Christ, without the merit of good works, is sufficlent for salvation.

The dogma that "outside the Church there is no salvation" requires a far more profound consideration than one gets from a perusal of Father Müller's book. We must distinguish between the soul and the body of the Church and between the soil and the body of the Church and between formal and material heretics, &c. Catholics and Protestants can and do unite in the belief that there is no salvation except through Christ (John xiv., 6). Catholics also claim that the merits of Christ are applied to our souls by the Church which He established and with which He promised to remain until the end of time (Matt. xvi., 18, and xxviii., 20), and that the Church of Christ, which must be one, body universal, and anneadic, is one other.

and with which he promised to remain must the end of time (Matt. xvi., 18, and xxviii., 20), and that the Church of Christ, which must be one, holy, universal, and apostolic, is some other than the Roman Catholic Church.

Now, they belong to the soul of the Church who have the spiritual life abundantly which Christ came to give (John x., 10), and who are partakers of the divice nature (2 Pet. i., 41; and they belong to the body of the Church (a visible, external organization), who are baptized, profess its belief and commune with those who have authority in the Church. The dogma that outside the Church there is no salvation, must be understood of the soul of the Church. But it cannot be said that one who by his own fault remains outside the body of the Church belongs at the same time to the soul. These words, by his own fault, would themselves admit of extended treatment, but the writer must not claim too much space.

The points here set down are hardly more than suggestive, but may indicate the lines on which R. N. T. must investigate in order to ascertain the entire teaching of the Church of Rome on the matter in discussion. The Church condemns no one to eternal punishment; her severest act is that of excommunication, which does not affect membership of the soul of the Church. Of those who will not hear her. Christ himself said, "Let them be to thee as the heathen and the publican" (Matt. xviii., 17). But oven them she sirives to convert and save, and if at times her efforts appear unsuccessful, she still leaves them to the infinite mercy of God. F. A. F.

Lambertville, Jan. 2.

Anxiety Over the Combination Against England. From the London Rock.

It is clear to careful observers that the project of a nighty European combination against Great Britain not only has not been abandoned but is steadily evolving, though still in a very embryonic state. The Berlin correspondent of the Dutly News reently reported that German statesmen fully anticipated that at no very distant date Russia will force England into a life and death struggle for empire. In which Germany will be compelled to take sides. In that case they say that German interests will imper atively demand that she should cast in her lot with Russia, even though it spells alliance with her old enemy, France. Exactly; the time is near when the King of the North shall marshal a vast confederacy of powers against the King of the South for the closing tragedy of this dispensation.

India's Well Watched Outposts. From the London Daily News.

An Oraksal Sepoy, serving in the Fortleth Pathans, who are quartered at Rawal Pindi, received a letter from a relation, a tribesman now fighting our troops.
The env-lope bore the postmark, "Headquarters
Field Post Office, Maldan!" In the letter was told the latest news from the front, and the possibility of settlement was discussed. Evidently the writer and posted it in the camp itself. No doubt he had hidden his rifle behind a rock and walked boldly in among us with some eggs to sell, and sent his news to his friend under the nose of the general officer commanding.

Antipodean Restraints. From the Sydney Bulletin.

The young girl out alone in the evening has been very num rous of late in New Zealand cities, and the Government has drafted a bill for the appointment of "discreet women" as inspectors, with extensive powers to stop and interrogate the girl who is out at a late hour. She is also authorized to excert her home and see her safely deposited on the parental bosom. or, if the late girl is a very hard case, to take her to an establishment specially provided and leave her in charge of the matron pending inquiry.

Will Have Use for Both. From the St. Louis Globe Democrat.

After training the hand to write 1898 instead of

RAILBOAD BUILDING IN 1897. Less Than 2,000 Miles of New Road in the

From the Railroad Gazette. Reports received by the Railroad Gazette up o the time of going to press indicate that the building of new railroads in 1897 was a little less than for the year before and a few miles more than the total reported for 1895, though still far short of that in 1890 and earlier years. Official reports from the various companies show a total mileage built during the year, not including second track and sidings, of 1,604.17 miles. To this must be added 223.75 miles, which the news columns of the Ratirous of the year, giving us 1,827,92 miles pretty of the year, giving us 1,827.92 miles pretty accurately verified. There are a number of roads on which it is known that grading has been completed and track laying is in progress. The exact amount of track laying, however, it is impossible at this time to state, but it is estimated to be not less than 110 miles. This makes the total probable railroad building during 1897, 1.937.92 miles, of which all but 333.75 miles is official. Of course, reports from roads not yet heard from will somewhat modify these results. We give below the official and estimated mileage by States, omitting, however, the 110 miles, which has probably been completed, but of which we have no definite record.

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BOULDING V. T.	W17.
Totals	228.75
The 110 miles of probable new ros	d, not in-

Official, Estimated.

The 110 miles of probable new road, not in-cluded in the above, is distributed as follows: Arkansas, 12 miles; California, 18; Georgia, 36; North Carolina, 10; Ohio, 10; Oklahoma Terri-tory, 11; Tennessee, 12, and West Virginia, 8 miles.

tory, 11; Tennessee, 12, and West Virginia, a miles.

It is interesting to make comparisons with previous years. According to Poor's Manual, which appears about six months after the close of the calendar year, and is therefore in position to gather up practically all the construction of the year, the new building for 1896 was 1,096.72 miles, or about 59 miles more than the total estimate here given for 1897. In 1895, which is the low-water mark in railroad construction, the mileage was 1,922.25. Poor puts the new construction in 1894 at 2,263.97 miles; in 1893 at 2,789.92 miles; in 1892 at 4,584.01 miles; in 1891 at 4,620.41 miles, and in 1890 at 5,656.7 miles.

The figures so far received indicate that California heads the list with 199 miles of new road, while Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and Texas have each more than 100 miles to their credit.

New Names for the Same Old Things.

From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

From the New Orleans Times Democrat.

"Now names for old things," remarked a gentleman yesterday, "are the order of the day, There are from time to time heavy rainfalls in this country which in the old time were characterized as 'downpours,' or something of that kind. Now, however, we hear of 'cloudbursis' everywhere. Every time a mill creek overflows or a hay crop gets suddenly spoiled, it is attributed to a 'cloudburst.' People have been dying from stoppage of the heart's action since the beginning of mortality, and yet it is but recently that we began to hear of 'heart failure.' A heated term is now produced by a 'hot wave,' all siexness that the doctors cannot understand is attributed to 'Bright's disease,' and living cheaply in summer is called 'going into the country. The nomenclature is different, but the old things are the same."

Foreign Notes of Real Interest. Weber's "Freyschütz" has just been performed for

the 600th time at the Berlin Royal Opera. "Panhyperprotosebastohypertatos" as a title for the German Kaiser feebly expresses one Englishman's rage.

Vienna is going to turn moral, too. The ballet corps at the Imperial Opera House has received orders to wear "roomy white slik stockings" over its tights

A telegraph line recently run to Coomassie from the coast is highly appreciated by the Ashanti natives. They cut off the wire in suitable lengths to

nateroids discovered, No. 416, in honor of Father Boccardi of the Vatican Observatory, who has computed its course.

to every one of the 3,000 drivers and conductors of the omnibus company in which he is interested as a Christmas present.

Herr Dieden, the senior member of the German Reichstag, is 57 years of age and has sat in every sension since the empire was constituted. He has also been a member of the Prussian Landtag continuously since 1854.

Siegfried Wagner is in Rome at work on a comis opera, the book being on a story of the Thirty Years' War. His music is said to be not of the school of his ather but of that of Humperdinck, the composer of 'Hansel und Gretel." Princess Theresa of Bayaria, daughter of the Prince

Regent, has been made an honorary doctor of phi-losophy by the University of Munich. She is also a nember of the Royal Academy of Sciences, is 48 years of age, and a spinster. Paris's police is trying to discourage murder as a pusiness by showing that it does not pay. Out of twenty-one recent murders the average profit to each assassin was \$16.37, and in many of these cases the

nurderer was caught and executed. A bill posting combination has been turned into a tal of \$12,250,000. It holds out as an inducement to buy shares a number of contracts it has for bill posting at the rate of a penny a sheet per week.

Krefeld is henceforth the only correct spelling for the manufacturing town near Düsseldorf, the form Crefeld having been contemned unanimously by a convention of all the school teachers of the district, whom the Prussian Government referred the question for final decision.

Princess Tono Maruan of the Fiji Islands, according to the Berlin Borsenblatt, is about to visit Europe in search of a husband. She is the heir to the throne; has an income of \$35,000 a year from the British Government, which will be doubled on her accession, besides her domain lands, and is looking for a welleducated man of good birth, as the Fiji Queen's consort is her Chief Minister and Chief Justice

There was a hot time in Adelaide, Australia, on Nov. 10, the temperature in the shade reaching 106°, and in the sun 164'. The sky looked queer, the sun was was coming to an end. At one public school the chil dren were seized with a panic, which was stopped with difficulty by the head master, who later kept the whole school in till It had made up the time lost in

Earl Russell, freed from his divorce court troubles is agitating the "one man one bath" question in British workhouses. At Maldenhead, the scene of the recent typhoid fever outbreak, where the Earl is one of the Board of Guardians, he discovered that they had bathed forty tramps in six bathfuls of water With some difficulty he put through a proposal to use the same water for only two or three persons, one overseer objecting that "he did not know when they were going to stop giving luxuries to tramps."

By May I the Congo Raticoad between Matadi and Stanley Pool will be completed and open for traffic. In the middle of becomber the rails had been laid for 348 kHometres of the 388 covered by the line, the readbed for ten kilometres more was finished, and men were at work on the next ten kilometres, bring-ing the line to within thirteen miles of stonley Pool. The tron bridge over the Jukissi will be put in place at the beginning of January. The November receipts from traffic on the part of the road in speration were 200,000 fran

"Kokori ko" a dramatic review of the year at a Paris variety bull, has led to a duel. The author made fun of the Catulle Mendès Lugué Poés neounter. representing the principals as In Prince de Macuconi and Le Directeur de l'Eures des Petits Fauncis, with Dusé and Tamegno as seconds for the first and Sarah Benbarit as one second for the other. M: Lugné 1'05, feeling insuited, challenged the author, and, as in this duel he did not keep out of his oppo-U. S. A."